

DOUG BUFFONE'S



BEAR REPORT

A NEWSPAPER DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE CHICAGO BEARS AND THE NFL.

Vol. 11, No. 13 October 27, 1986

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A newspaper devoted exclusively to the Chicago Bears and the NFL
Vol. 11, No. 13 October 27, 1986

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In between quarterback sacks this year, Steve McMichael takes a breath of fresh air on the bench. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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Commentary



By
Doug
Buffone



Bears need to strike first

Yes, the Bears lost to Minnesota Sunday and didn't look very good in the process. But it's not the end of the world. Some good can come out of a loss like that.

For one thing, they don't have to worry about finishing the season at 16-0. That was a big goal that the fans and Mike Ditka set for the team this year. And that puts some pressure on the players each week that's out of the ordinary. Now they can just go out on the field and play to win, instead of playing to keep their record perfect.

And this loss might be just the thing to get the players mad enough to destroy each opponent rather than just get by with a win. The Bears will have to prove to a lot of people (not necessarily themselves or the organization) that they are still as good as they were last year. They don't need to prove that, but some people think they do.

So Detroit better watch out. The Bears just might take an attitude that says, "OK, you want us to prove something, we will. We'll show you just how good we can be." And when the Bears play that well, there's nothing that can stop them.

But on Sunday they got stopped early and never got going. Minnesota stung the Bears early and was able to control the game after that. Chicago couldn't run the offense it wanted to because it was behind. That, more than anything else, is why Steve Fuller couldn't get the passing game on track.

By no means was it all Steve's fault. The Bears didn't

have time to establish their running game, and that led to the beating Fuller must have taken. Minnesota knew the Bears had to pass, so the Vikings blitzed hard and never let up pressuring Fuller.

The protection just wasn't there to give Fuller a chance to be effective. Ditka, of course, realizes that and will give Fuller another chance to do the job next Sunday. I'm sure given the proper protection, Fuller can be effective in moving the Bears' offense.

Why Minnesota's offense was so effective is hard to say. They did an excellent job blocking and their trap plays were deadly for Chicago's defense. Tommy Kramer proved the second time around that when he's given time, he'll tear apart almost any secondary. Kramer hit the seams in Chicago's zone and nothing could stop it.

I think the Bears learned last week how important it is to get the upper hand in a game from the beginning. If Chicago doesn't establish itself early, it'll have problems the whole game.

So look for the Bears to come out fast against Detroit and try to knock the Lions out of the game early. If they do that, they'll be on the right track again.

The "Doug Buffone-Rich King Show" can be seen each week at 7 p.m. on Sportsvision cable in the Chicago area.



Besides the way things were going on the field, coach Mike Ditka wasn't happy with some of the officiating during Sunday's loss to Minnesota. (Bear Report photo by Rick Kolodziej)

Bears find out two weeks can make a big difference

By Michael Polzin
Managing Editor

MINNEAPOLIS — How can a quarterback who was sacked seven times two weeks ago hardly be pressured on Sunday?

How can a team that has allowed just six sacks all year suddenly allow seven sacks in one game?

How can a team that gave up just three touchdowns in its last five games turn around and give up three touchdowns in one game?

Basically, how can the Chicago Bears beat Minnesota 23-0 two weeks ago, then lose to them 23-7 in Minneapolis on Sunday?

"They dominated us," Bears coach Mike Ditka said. "They beat us the way you're supposed to win football games. They took it to us and shoved it down our throats."

The result was a very important win for the Vikings in front of a record crowd of 62,851 at the Metrodome. The Vikings are now just one game behind the Bears at 5-2. Chicago's record dropped to 6-1.

The Bears had problems from the beginning moving the ball on offense as Steve Fuller made his first start of the year. Under a heavy rush from the Vikings that never let up, the Bears passed for just 137 yards and gained only 190 total yards on offense.

Vikings do what they want on offense

When the Vikings had the ball they moved it almost at will for 376 yards in the game. Minnesota quarterback Tommy Kramer passed for 239 yards before leaving the game in the third quarter with the Vikings comfortably ahead.

When Kramer wasn't passing, Minnesota used trap plays to break big gains on the ground and run for 157 yards.

"This is probably the best I've seen Minnesota run since I've been here," said linebacker Al Harris, who started in place of the injured Wilbur Marshall. Marshall did play later in the game. "I think that prevented us from teeing off on them on the pass rush. I don't know if it was trap blocking or what. I don't know what it was. But they were more aggressive than two weeks ago."

Kramer showed in the first quarter what he can do when he's given time to throw the ball. Kramer completed all six of his passes for 134 yards in the quarter as Minnesota built its 13-0 lead.

The Vikings first scored on a 37-yard pass from Kramer to Alfred Anderson. Chicago's Dan Hampton blocked the extra point, making the score 6-0.

The Bears' rough times in the quarter just started. Chicago took the kickoff and moved the ball to the Vikings' 31-yard line when Fuller fumbled the ball while scrambling away from the rush. Minnesota recovered, and four plays later Kramer hit Anthony Carter for a 60-yard touchdown pass over the middle for a 13-0 lead.

"They ran a lot of pick routes to make us go to the zone," said Reggie Phillips. "And then they started hitting the weak spots in the zone. It just worked for them."

Penalties hurt Bear offense

Penalties also cost the Bears in the first half, taking away two first downs and forcing the Bears to punt each time.

"We were jumping offsides and I think I needed to take better control of the offense," Fuller said. "It was extremely hard to hear because of the crowd noise. Our guards were having a hard time hearing, so you can imagine what our receivers were thinking."

"We were trying to move people around to get them to change their defense. But because of the crowd we ended up with a lot of penalties."

Early in the second quarter the Vikings had a chance to increase their lead after moving the ball inside the Bears' 25-yard line. But Anderson fumbled the ball for Minnesota and Hampton was there to recover for Chicago at the 22-yard line.

Even when the Bears had a good play going for them, it worked against them. Chicago had the Vikings in a fourth down and eight situation from their own 20-yard line. Greg Coleman was ready to punt the ball, but decided to run with it at the last second under a heavy Bears rush. The result was a 16-yard run and a first down for the Vikings.

Minnesota stretched out the drive for 70 yards in 8:17 and a 29-yard field goal to give them a 16-0 halftime lead.

Kramer passed for 179 yards in the half under no pressure. On the other side, Fuller was sacked four times and threw for only 45 yards. Minnesota also was successful on five of seven third-down attempts. The Bears' offense netted just 56 yards in the first half.

Ditka gives Vikings credit

"I think they made us look bad more than we looked bad," Ditka said. "I give them a lot of credit. Two weeks,

it must make a difference."

In the third quarter both teams picked up where they left off at the half. Minnesota moved the ball on a long drive and the Bears ran just a few plays and punted.

Minnesota scored again in the third quarter on an 85-yard drive that took 8:53. Kramer scored on a five-yard scramble, giving the Vikings a 23-0 lead. On the drive Minnesota was faced with a third and nine play and a third and 21 situation, but Kramer completed first-down passes both times.

"Concentration was very poor," Ditka said. "It seems we have a lot of people who are worried about a lot of things except football."

"I think the key thing is when they got the football and just took it right down the field. When they have the ball for 40 minutes, with our offense we're going to get beat. We're not gonna win."

Chicago finally got on the board early in the fourth quarter when Fuller completed a 50-yard touchdown pass to Willie Gault to make the final score 23-7.

Fuller managed to come out of the game without any serious injuries despite ending up on the turf seven times. "We should block a little better than that," Ditka said. "I can understand some sacks. But he didn't have a chance at all. They just destroyed us up front."

Bears in tough situation early

When the Bears got down early, they were in trouble and couldn't come back by just throwing the ball.

"In that kind of situation it's tough to ask your linemen to block for those long, slow developing routes," Fuller said. "I would have liked to have thrown the ball away a couple more times. But I didn't see the guy coming sometimes."

"When they got ahead 23-0 we couldn't run the ball and win the game. And they knew that. So it makes it a little easier for them to rush. I felt we could have run the ball but it wasn't that kind of game."

Immediately after the game Ditka announced his plans were to start Fuller next Sunday against Detroit.

"I want people 100 percent well to play. I want them 100 percent well to practice," Ditka said in reference to the injured Jim McMahon, who has a sore back to go along with his bad right shoulder. "I think Steve deserves a shot at some support. The offense deserves to support him a

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Anthony Carter missed the first game against the Bears, but helped Minnesota to victory Sunday by catching a 60-yard touchdown pass from Tommy Kramer. (Bear Report photo by Rick Kolodziej)



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Bears-Vikings Official Statistics

SCORING SUMMARY

Chicago	0	0	0	7	-	7
Minnesota	13	3	7	0	-	23
Minnesota, 1, 2:48, Anderson 37-yd. pass from Kramer, kick blocked, 0-6						
Minnesota, 1, 10:45, Carter 60-yd. pass from Kramer, C. Nelson kick, 0-13						
Minnesota, 2, 13:00, C. Nelson 29-yd. FG, 0-16						

Minnesota, 3, 10:41, Kramer 5-yd. run, C. Nelson kick, 0-23

Chicago, 4, 1:30, Gault 50-yd. pass from Fuller, Butler kick, 7-23

Attendance: 62,851; tickets distributed: 63,772; unused: 921; time: 3:09
Weather 55, sunny outside, temperature 65 inside, wind and direction, dome

FINAL TEAM STATISTICS

	Bears	Vikings
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	10	19
By Rushing	4	10
By Passing	6	8
By Penalty	0	1
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	5-13	8-14
FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	2-2	2-2
TOTAL NET YARDS	190	376
Total Off. Plays		
(Inc. times passing)	49	65
Av. Gain per Off. Play	3.9	5.8
NET YARDS RUSHING	53	157
Total Rushing Plays	18	45
Av. Gain Per Rush. Play	2.9	3.5
NET YARDS PASSING	137	219
Times Thrown —		
Yds. Lost Att. To Pass	7-44	2-20
Gross Yds. Passing	181	239
PASS ATT. — COMP. —		
HAD INTERCEPTED	24-13-1	18-12-0
Av. Gain Per Pass Play		
(Inc. times thrown passing)	4.4	10.9
PUNTS — NO. AND AV.	6-39.0	3-46.0
Had Blocked	0	0
TOTAL RET. YARDAGE	126	61
No. and Yds. Punt Ret.	3-30	1-15
No. and Yds. KO Returns	4-96	2-37
No. and Yds. Interc. Ret.	0-0	1-9
PENALTIES — NO. AND YDS.	10-96	10-75
FUMBLES — NO. AND LOST	2-1	3-1
TOUCHDOWNS	1	3
Rushing	0	1
Passing	1	2
Returns	0	0
EXTRA POINTS MADE — ATT.	1-1	2-3
FG MADE — ATT.	0-0	1-1
TIME OF POSSESSION	21:29	38:31

Minnesota Vikings

	Minnesota Vikings				
RUSHING	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Gain	TD
Rice	10	23	2.3	12	0
Nelson	14	61	4.4	16	0
Brown	13	37	2.8	7	0

Coleman	1	16	16.0	16	0
Kramer	4	21	5.2	13	1
Anderson, A.	2	1	15	1	0
Wilson, W.	1	-2	-2.0	-2	0

Continued Page 6



When Minnesota quarterback Tommy Kramer wasn't throwing the ball Sunday, he was running away from Bear defenders for more yardage and a touchdown. (Bear Report photo by Rick Kolodziej)

FINAL INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

	Chicago Bears				
	Net	Long			
RUSHING	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Gain	TD
Fuller	3	7	2.3	10	0
Payton	9	28	3.1	12	0
Suhay	4	7	1.8	4	0
Thomas	1	2	2.0	2	0
Tomczak	1	9	9.0	9	0

	TKD			Had	Int.	
PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	Yds.	TD	LG
Fuller	22	13	181	7/44	1	50
Tomczak	2	0	0	0/0	0	0

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
PASS RECEIVING				
Patyon	2	2	4	0
Ortego	4	51	19	0
Moorehead	3	36	23	0
Wrightman	1	29	29	0
Gault	1	50	50	1
Suhay	2	13	9	0

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
INTERCEPTIONS				
None				

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
PUNTING	6	234	39.0	0	0	47

	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
PUNT RETURNS	3	0	30	18	0

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
KICKOFF RETURNS				
Gentry	2	60	36	0
Sanders	2	36	19	0

	Own	Fum.	Rec.	Yds.	TD
FUMBLERS					
Fuller	2	1	0	0	0

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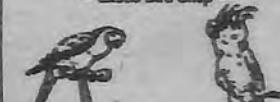
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Sixth-round pick worth the chance for Flutie

Time will tell whether Doug Flutie was really necessary. History already tells that the idea is sound.

Whether Flutie ever makes a sixth-round contribution or not is beside the point of this theory.

Flutie missed being a first-round draft choice by a few inches, so spending a sixth and flopping a third for a fourth is not exactly putting the future of the Bears on the line.

Besides, when you're world champions, you can do anything, surprise anyone. Second-guessing is not so common among winners. If Mike Ditka starts Doug Flutie soon, fans will figure he knows what he's doing. If Mike Ditka never starts Doug Flutie, fans will figure he knows what he's doing.

Other teams can only wonder what he's doing. Ditka intends to find out what he's doing.



By
Don
Pierson

If there is anything Ditka can't tolerate, it is football players who don't get a chance. He identifies strongly. He was too little himself once and had decided to quit the sport.

"Ditka thinks I'm a winner. He has a lot of faith in me," Flutie said. The computers said William Perry was too fat. They said Keith Ortego was too slow. They said Mike Ditka was too temperamental. They say Doug Flutie is too short.

But even if Flutie can't see over his offensive linemen and can't throw rollout passes and doesn't justify Ditka's faith, he already has served a purpose.

Flutie's purpose more than motivation
It is more than motivation. The Bears think Flutie will motivate the other quarterbacks whether they need moti-

vation or not. Flutie might motivate all the other players because Ditka said keeping four quarterbacks is not beyond possibility. Already, Flutie's acquisition has upset players who naturally feel loyalty to their teammates.

But motivation is only a part of Flutie's value to the Bears. He represents an attitude that is refreshing and healthy, even though players find it difficult to understand.

Every team claims it is constantly looking for players to "upgrade the squad." Every team brings in prospects for tryouts at every position. Constant turnover is more than a motivational threat; it is pro football reality.

But how many teams are afraid to bring in a Flutie? They shun the spotlight. They don't want the hassle of a celebrity. They are afraid to fail. They don't mind taking a chance on an unknown player, but let's not fool around with a Heisman Trophy winner.

Who can name the Bears' sixth-round draft choice of 1986?

It was Jeff Powell, Tennessee running back and wide receiver. Remember him? He didn't make it and nobody noticed.

Who can name the Bears' sixth-round draft choice of 1985?

It was traded to the Rams (along with a 1984 11th) for Steve Fuller.

The Bears spent a sixth-round draft choice for Vince Evans and a sixth-round draft choice for Bob Avellini. Why not a sixth-round choice for Doug Flutie?

Players see Flutie as a disruption

Bear players argue that it is unfair of Ditka to preach loyalty and practice something else. If Flutie comes in and costs a healthy quarterback a job at midseason, the players think it would disrupt the chemistry of a Super Bowl team. They probably are right, but that is not Ditka's stated intention. Flutie is expected to sign a 1987-88 contract and be available for 1986 only if the need arises.

The good teams don't let paranoia interfere with good judgment. They also don't allow their teams to become stale, mentally or physically. Acquiring the rights to Doug Flutie lets everyone know the Bears are open to new ideas whether or not they take a vote of players.

In 1985, the Dallas Cowboys drafted Herschel Walker in the fifth round. He was under contract to Donald Trump and the New Jersey Generals of the United States Football League at the time. The Bears wanted Walker, too, but shied away because of the enormous contract obligation and the fear that he might disrupt the Bears' apple cart.

Continued Next Page



Even a lot of sideline coaching couldn't help the Bears give more time to Steve Fuller to throw the ball on Sunday. (Bear Report photo by Rick Kolodziej)

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Flutie

Continued From Page 5

That was when the USFL was alive and the future was uncertain. The Bears studied Walker's contract as closely as possible and decided to pass. The Bears might live to regret their hesitancy in going after Walker — just as every other team except the Cowboys might. But at least they had the idea.

Flutie will cost a fraction of what Walker cost the Cowboys, and no one believes he will have similar impact, but he represents the same thinking that keeps the good teams good.

Cowboys prove taking a chance pays

It was the Cowboys who drafted Roger Staubach in the 10th round in 1964 and waited until 1969 to get him and 1971 to play him. Staubach put the Cowboys into the Super Bowl and himself into the Hall of Fame.

It was the Raiders who drafted Napoleon McCallum out

of the Navy in the fourth round last year and didn't have to wait at all. Who else was willing to take the chance?

Who drafted Carl Lewis? The Cowboys. Who drafted Bob Hayes? The Cowboys.

Who else was interested in Flutie? The Cowboys.

"I just told the Rams if they couldn't get what they wanted, call us," said Dallas president Tex Schramm. "Whenever you have a competitor like Flutie, you have to be interested."

Ten teams passed up Wilber Marshall in 1984 — teams like the San Diego Chargers, Kansas City Chiefs, Cincinnati Bengals, Houston Oilers, Atlanta Falcons and Philadelphia Eagles.

Marshall was supposed to cost too much money. But he was too good to pass up. Do you suppose those other teams would like him now?

The Green Bay Packers tried out Flutie and signed Chuck Fusina. That's the safe thing to do.

Other teams snickered when the Bears traded for Flutie. "He's a nice boy," they were heard to say.

But only the Bears can find out how nice.



Despite being bothered still by a bad knee, William Perry recorded four tackles against the Vikings in Sunday's 23-7 loss at the Metrodome. (Bear Report photo by Rick Kolodziej)

Statistics

Continued From Page 4

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TKD	Yds.	TD	LG	Had
Kramer	18	12	239	1/15	2	60	0	
Wilson, W.	0	0	0	1/5	0	0	0	

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Nelson	3	43	22	0
Anderson, A.	1	37	37	1
Jordan	5	66	20	0
Carter	3	93	60	1

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Holt	1	9	9	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
Coleman	3	138	46.0	0	0	53

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Bess	1	3	15	15	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Bess	2	37	32	0

FUMBLES	Own	Fum.	Rec.	Yds.	TD
Anderson, A.	1	0	0	0	0
Nelson, D.	1	0	0	0	0
Zimmerman	0	2	0	0	0
Rice	1	0	0	0	0

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS (Unofficial)						
Chicago Bears						
Singletary	T	A	SK	YL	Int.	PD
Perry	8	1	0	0	0	0
Harris	4	0	0	0	0	0
Dent	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hampton	2	1	0	0	0	0
Wilson	6	1	1	15	0	0
Marshall	4	2	1	5	0	0
	7	0	0	0	0	0

McMichael	7	1	0	0	0	0	0
Richardson	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
Duerson	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Fencik	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rivera	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bell	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fuller	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Minnesota Vikings							
	T	A	SK	YL	Int.	PD	FR
Studwell	6	1	0	0	0	0	0
Martin	2	1	1	6	0	0	0
Holt	2	1	0	0	1	1	0
Robinson	6	0	2.5	20.5	0	0	0
Harris	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newton	5	1	1	7	0	0	1
C. Martin	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Millard	2	0	1.5	5.5	0	0	0
Howard	4	0	.5	2.5	0	0	0
Browner	2	0	.5	2.5	0	0	0
Lee	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Zimmerman	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

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Bears plan to sign Flutie for 1987-88

What's a team to do with four quarterbacks? That's the question on the minds of Chicago Bear players, coaches, management and fans after the Bears obtained the rights last Tuesday from the Los Angeles Rams for quarterback Doug Flutie.

Right now, according to Bears coach Mike Ditka, the plan is to sign Flutie to a two-year contract for 1987-88. But should they change their minds, the Bears can sign Flutie to a 1986 contract anytime before Nov. 21. Teams are not allowed to sign players to a 1986 contract within 30 days of the end of the season.

Ditka has not ruled out having four quarterbacks on the roster as insurance should injuries or anything else become a factor.



Bear Notebook

Bears general manager Jerry Vainisi completed the deal with the Rams just one minute before the 3 p.m. trading deadline on Oct. 14 during the owners' meetings at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare in Chicago.

Other teams who tried working out a deal for Flutie at the meetings were the Packers, Vikings and Cowboys. But Flutie said the Bears were the only team with which he would consider signing a future contract.

The Bears gave up a 1987 sixth-round draft choice and switched their 1987 third-round pick with the Rams' 1987 fourth-round pick to get the rights to Flutie.

Flutie's agent, Bob Woolf, said Flutie is completely free from his personal services contract with New Jersey Generals' owner Donald Trump of the United States Football League. Flutie played for the Generals in 1985.

The Bears said if any connections with Trump come up in the future, the deal is off. The trade also will be nullified if the Bears can't sign Flutie before April's draft.

Moments after the news broke that Chicago had obtained Flutie's rights, Woolf began getting calls about endorsements, commercials and Flutie's own Chicago radio show. All three of the Bears' present quarterbacks have their own radio shows.

Ditka is not sure immediately what the Bears will do with Flutie. "Does he figure in the Bears' plans for 1986? I can't answer that now," Ditka said. "In my mind, I think there is a very real possibility that he does."

McMahon, who seemed to be speaking as the unofficial spokesman for the players, said he wasn't surprised by the signing.

"It doesn't surprise me anymore," he said. "Mike (Tomczak) and Steve (Fuller) have done everything the coaches have asked of them. It's just kind of disheartening to everyone around that you do something like this this early in the season."

McMahon also voiced disapproval about how the Bears have handled the situation involving Brian Baschnagel.

"If they were that loyal, why'd they cut Baschnagel," he said. McMahon also criticized Ditka for keeping Ken Margerum on injured reserve and bringing in Clay Pickering to take his place.

"I think there's a lot of unhappy ballplayers here right now," McMahon said. "Not only because of that, but because of other things. I know it's not sitting well with a lot of people." McMahon would not elaborate on the other things players are upset about.

"None of us really knows what's going on," he said. "We'll just have to wait and see."

When asked about the players' reactions to the signing of Flutie, Ditka said, "I frankly don't give a damn. Wasn't that a line in a movie?"

"When you analyze what's best in business and what's best for a football team, if you put loyalty ahead of talent, you've got some problems."

"If we were 0-6 who would be loyal to me? You ask how many were loyal to me when we were 3-6 in 1982."

McMahon said he doesn't see any reason why the Bears need to bring in a fourth quarterback. "It's a question of our depth already," he said. "We got two guys that can play and they've proved that they can play. Why not bring in another receiver or defensive back where we need the help? But I'm not the coach so I don't make those decisions."

Ditka said the Bears wanted to sign Flutie in case of an emergency. "It's insurance and it's my belief that he can play football," Ditka said. "I didn't bring in the guy to threaten anybody. We're just gonna take a look and see what happens."

"I always thought life was a challenge. Those who step up to the line and face the challenge, they have no problem."

Ditka said he met with McMahon for about 20 minutes on Thursday to clear the air. Ditka said he explained his situation to McMahon and the meeting was productive.

Tomczak wasn't happy about the signing but said he wouldn't worry about it. "What if your boss goes out and brings somebody else in?" he said. "I really can't worry about it now. You never know what's going to happen."

On the following Wednesday McMahon showed up for practice wearing a red jersey with Flutie's No. 22 from Boston College on it. "I ignored it," Ditka said.

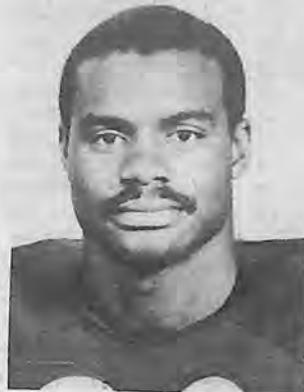
He can't, however, ignore the injuries that McMahon has suffered this year. Last week after the Houston game McMahon had microscopic traces of blood in his urine. But McMahon checked out fine when doctors had him undergo a CAT scan on a kidney.

Ditka said he would enforce more strictly his policy of not playing if you don't practice to avoid the same kind of confusion that happened before the Houston game over who would start at quarterback.

Ditka announced after Thursday's practice that Steve Fuller would start in place of McMahon against Minnesota. McMahon did not practice last week because of his shoulder and a sore back. McMahon had problems throwing the ball hard because of soreness in his back from the Houston game.

Continued Page 12

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Detroit Lions vs. Chicago Bears



Detroit Lions Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
3	Eddie Murray	K	5-10	175	30	7	Tulane
11	Mike Black	P	6-2	197	25	4	Arizona State
12	Joe Ferguson	QB	6-1	195	36	14	Arkansas
16	Chuck Long	QB	6-4	211	23	R	Iowa
17	Eric Hipple	QB	6-2	198	29	7	Utah State
21	Demetrious Johnson	S	5-11	190	25	4	Missouri
24	Alvin Moore	RB	6-0	194	27	4	Arizona State
27	Bobby Watkins	CB	5-10	184	26	5	S.W. Texas State
29	Bruce McNorton	CB	5-11	175	27	5	Georgetown Col.
30	James Jones	FB	6-2	229	25	4	Florida
31	Devon Mitchell	S	6-1	194	23	R	Iowa
32	Garry James	RB	5-10	214	23	R	Louisiana State
33	William Graham	S	5-11	191	27	5	Texas
34	James Griffin	S	6-2	197	25	4	Middle Tenn. St.
36	Herman Hunter	RB/KR	6-1	193	25	2	Tennessee State
38	Scott Williams	FB	6-2	234	24	1	Georgia
39	Leonard Thompson	WR	5-11	192	34	12	Oklahoma State
40	Duane Galloway	CB/S	5-8	181	24	1	Arizona State
42	John Bostic	CB	5-10	178	23	2	Bethune-Cook.
51	Shelton Robinson	ILB	6-2	236	26	5	North Carolina
52	Steve Mott	C	6-3	270	25	4	Alabama
54	James Johnson	OLB	6-2	236	24	1	San Diego State
55	Michael Coler	OLB	6-5	245	26	4	Tennessee
57	Vernon Maxwell	ILB	6-2	235	24	4	Arizona State
58	James Harrell	ILB	6-1	230	29	7	Florida
59	Jimmy Williams	OLB	6-3	230	25	5	Nebraska
60	Tom Turnure	C	6-4	253	29	6	Washington
61	Scott Barrows	G/T	6-2	278	23	1	West Virginia
62	Curtis Green	DE/NT	6-3	265	29	6	Alabama State
63	Steve Kenney	G	6-4	262	30	7	Clemson
66	Leon Evans	DE	6-5	282	24	2	Miami (Florida)
68	Steve Baack	NT/G	6-4	265	25	3	Oregon
71	Rich Strenger	T	6-7	285	26	3	Michigan
73	Harvey Salem	T/G	6-6	285	25	4	California
75	Lomas Brown	T	6-4	282	23	2	Florida
76	Eric Williams	NT	6-4	280	24	3	Washington St.
77	Keith Ferguson	DE	6-5	260	27	6	Ohio State
79	William Gay	DE	6-5	260	31	9	So. California
80	Carl Bland	WR	5-11	182	25	3	Virginia Union
82	Pete Mandley	WR/KR	5-10	191	25	3	No. Arizona
84	Rob Rubick	TE	6-3	234	26	5	Grand Valley St.
87	David Lewis	TE	6-3	235	25	3	California
89	Jeff Chadwick	WR	6-3	190	25	4	Grand Valley St.
92	Angelo King	OLB	6-1	222	28	6	S. Carolina St.
96	Paul Butcher	ILB/OLB	6-0	219	22	R	Wayne State

INJURED RESERVE

RB Oscar Smith, CB Arnold Brown, DE Allen Hughes, LB George Jamison, WR Tim Karsee, LB August Curley, T/G Joe Milinichik, G/T Keith Dorney, G/T Chris Dieterich, C/G Kevin Glover

PHYSICALLY UNABLE TO PERFORM

WR Mark Nichols

HEAD COACH: Darryl Rogers

ASSISTANT COACHES: Bob Baker, Wayne Fontes, Carl Battershell, Don Doll, Paul Lanham, Bill Muir, Mike Murphy, Rex Norris, Willie Shaw, Ivy Williams



QUARTERBACK ERIC HIPPLE



Chicago Bears Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
4	Steve Fuller	QB	6-4	195	29	8	Clemson
6	Kevin Butler	K	6-1	195	24	2	Georgia
8	Maury Buford	P	6-1	191	26	5	Texas Tech
9	Jim McMahon	QB	6-1	190	27	5	BYU
18	Mike Tomczak	QB	6-1	195	24	2	Ohio State
20	Thomas Sanders	RB	5-11	203	24	2	Texas A & M
22	Dave Duerson	S	6-1	203	25	4	Notre Dame
23	Shaun Gayle	CB	5-11	193	24	3	Ohio St.
24	Vestee Jackson	DB	6-0	186	22	R	Washington
25	Todd Bell	S	6-1	205	27	5	Ohio State
26	Matt Suhey	FB	5-11	216	28	7	Penn State
27	Mike Richardson	CB	6-0	188	25	4	Arizona St.
29	Dennis Gentry	RB	5-8	181	27	5	Baylor
33	Calvin Thomas	FB	5-11	245	26	5	Illinois
34	Walter Payton	RB	5-10	202	31	12	Jackson St.
35	Neal Anderson	RB	5-11	210	21	R	Florida
45	Gary Fencik	S	6-1	196	32	11	Yale
48	Reggie Phillips	DB	5-10	170	25	2	SMU
50	Mike Singletary	LB	6-0	228	27	6	Baylor
51	Jim Morrissey	LB	6-3	215	23	2	Michigan State
52	Larry Rubens	C	6-2	262	27	3	Montana State
53	Dan Rains	LB	6-1	229	32	3	Cincinnati
55	Otis Wilson	LB	6-2	232	28	7	Louisville
57	Tom Thayer	G/C	6-4	261	24	2	Notre Dame
58	Wilber Marshall	LB	6-1	225	24	3	Florida
59	Ron Rivera	LB	6-3	239	24	3	California
62	Mark Botz	G	6-6	269	25	4	Iowa
63	Jay Hilgenberg	C	6-3	258	27	6	Iowa
68	Paul Blair	OT	6-4	295	22	R	Oklahoma State
70	Henry Waechter	DT	6-5	275	27	5	Nebraska
72	William Perry	DT	6-2	308	23	2	Clemson
73	Mike Hartenstein	DE	6-3	254	32	12	Penn State
74	Jim Covert	T	6-4	271	26	4	Pittsburgh
76	Steve McMichael	DT	6-2	260	28	7	Texas
78	Keith Van Horne	T	6-6	280	28	6	USC
79	Kurt Becker	G	6-5	267	27	5	Michigan
80	Tim Wrightman	TE	6-3	237	26	2	UCLA
81	Lew Barnes	WR	5-8	163	23	R	Oregon
83	Willie Gault	WR	6-1	183	25	4	Tennessee
86	Clay Pickering	WR	6-5	215	25	3	Maine
87	Emery Moorehead	TE	6-2	220	32	10	Colorado
89	Keith Ortego	WR	6-0	180	22	2	McNeese State
90	Al Harris	LB	6-5	253	29	7	Arizona St.
95	Richard Dent	DE	6-5	263	25	4	Tenn State
99	Dan Hampton	DT	6-5	267	28	8	Arkansas

Injured Reserve — LB Brian Cabral, OT Andy Frederick, RB Calvin Murray, TE Riley Walton, OG Stefan Humphries, WR Ken Margerum.

Physically Unable to Perform — WR Dennis McKinnon, CB Leslie Frazier.

Non-Football Injury — WR Glenn Kozlowski.

HEAD COACH: Mike Ditka

ASSISTANTS: Jim Dooley, Ed Hughes, Steve Kazor, Greg Landry, Jim LaRue, John Levra, Dave McGinnis, Johnny Roland, Dick Stanfel, Vince Tobin.

Special to the Bear Report

Since Darryl Rogers took over as head coach of the Lions prior to the 1985 season, he has learned how to survive without Billy Sims, the team's all-time leading rusher.

Sims sustained a serious knee injury during a 1984 game at the Minneapolis Metrodome. There was hope he would return sometime during the 1985 season, but it did not materialize. As a result, the Lions never established much of a running game during the '85 campaign and finished a dismal 7-9, miles back in the NFC Central race.

This year, there was no need to be concerned about whether Sims would return or not because he announced his retirement before the season began. Last spring, the Lions realized Sims' career was probably history and that's why they drafted running back Garry James in the second round of the draft. James came to the club with impressive credentials. During his illustrious career at Louisiana State, he rushed for 2,217 yards and accounted for 3,211 yards in total offense.

Rogers didn't waste any time getting James into the lineup. He has been a starter since opening day and hasn't disappointed the coach. Through the first six games, James averaged 5.1 yards per carry while compiling 275 yards on 54 attempts. In a 21-14 victory over the Packers on Oct. 12, James racked up 140 yards on 20 carries and scored his first pro touchdown on a 41-yard scamper. No

Lions running back had compiled that many yards in a single game since Sims.

"We never had a guy in the last three years who could do that," said fellow running back James Jones. "He's got the speed to go outside. It's something we've really missed."

Jones leader rushing attack

Jones is also



DEFENSIVE END ERIC WILLIAMS



RUNNING BACK JAMES JONES

Lineups

Detroit Chicago

Offense

WR 89 Jeff Chadwick, 39 Leonard Thompson
 LT 75 Lomas Brown, 61 Scott Barrows
 LG 63 Steve Kenney, 61 Scott Barrows
 C 52 Steve Mott, 60 Tom Turnure
 RG 73 Harvey Salem, 61 Scott Barrows
 RT 71 Rich Strenger, 73 Harvey Salem
 TE 87 David Lewis, 84 Rob Rubick
 WR 80 Carl Bland, 82 Pete Mandley
 QB 17 Eric Hippie, 12 Joe Ferguson
 RB 32 Garry James, 24 Alvin Moore
 FB 30 James Jones, 38 Scott Williams

WR 83 Willie Gault, 89 Keith Ortego
 LT 74 Jim Covert, 68 Paul Blair
 LG 62 Mark Bortz, 79 Kurt Becker
 C 63 Jay Hilgenberg, 52 Larry Rubens
 RG 57 Tom Thayer, 79 Kurt Becker
 RT 78 Keith Van Horne, 68 Paul Blair
 TE 87 Emery Moorehead, 80 Tim Wrightman
 WR 89 Keith Ortego, 29 Dennis Gentry
 RB 34 Walter Payton, 20 Tom Sanders
 FB 26 Matt Suhey, 33 Calvin Thomas
 QB 4 Steve Fuller, 18 Mike Tomczak

Defense

LE 77 Keith Ferguson, 62 Curtis Green
 NT 76 Eric Williams, 62 Curtis Green
 RE 79 William Gay, 62 Curtis Green
 OLB 59 Jimmy Williams, 54 James Johnson
 ILB 58 James Harrell, 51 Shelton Robinson
 ILB 57 Vernon Maxwell, 51 Shelton Robinson
 OLB 55 Mike Cofer, 92 Angelo King
 LCB 27 Bobby Watkins, 40 Duane Galloway
 RCB 29 Bruce McNorton, 40 Duane Galloway
 SS 21 Demetrious Johnson, 33 William Graham
 FS 31 Devon Mitchell, 34 James Griffin

LE 99 Dan Hampton, 73 Mike Hartenstine
 LT 76 Steve McMichael, 70 Henry Waechter
 RT 72 William Perry, 70 Henry Waechter
 RE 95 Richard Dent, 73 Mike Hartenstine
 LLB 55 Otis Wilson, 59 Ron Rivera
 MLB 50 Mike Singletary, 59 Ron Rivera
 RLB 58 Wilber Marshall, 90 Al Harris
 LC 27 Mike Richardson, 24 Vestee Jackson
 RC 48 Reggie Phillips, 24 Vestee Jackson
 SS 22 Dave Duerson, 25 Todd Bell
 FS 45 Gary Fencik, 23 Shaun Gayle

Specialists

PK 3 Eddie Murray, 11 Mike Black
 P 11 Mike Black, 3 Eddie Murray
 H 17 Eric Hippie, 11 Mike Black
 PC/KC 60 Tom Turnure, 61 Scott Barrows
 PR 82 Pete Mandley, 80 Carl Bland
 KOR 36 Herman Hunter, 80 Carl Bland

PK 6 Kevin Butler
 P 8 Maury Buford
 PR 81 Lew Barnes, 89 Keith Ortego
 KR 29 Dennis Gentry, 20 Thomas Sanders
 KC 63 Jay Hilgenberg, 52 Larry Rubens
 PC 52 Larry Rubens, 63 Jay Hilgenberg
 H 4 Steve Fuller, 18 Mike Tomczak

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Lions

Continued From Page 8

the Lions stiffened up when needed and allowed only one touchdown while intercepting three passes in the 24-13 victory over the Oilers.

"The win over Houston was a great confidence builder," said linebacker Jimmy Williams. The defense also did a good job against Green Bay the following week in the Lions' 21-14 victory at Lambeau Field.

Detroit's defensive leaders include Williams, fellow linebacker Vernon Maxwell, defensive end Keith Ferguson (team-leading 3 sacks) and cornerback Bruce McNorton (team-leading 2 interceptions).

The Lions' special teams are led by former Pro Bowl placekicker Eddie Murray. Through six weeks, he had connected on 5 of 7 field goal attempts and all 13 of his extra point tries. Punter Mike Black ranked 11th in the league with a 39.5 average.

The kickoff and punt return units have had their problems. The Lions have been averaging only 17.6 per kickoff return while allowing 20.5. The punt return coverage unit is allowing 12.1 per return while Peter Mandley has been averaging only 6.1 per return.

Errors by the special teams cost the Lions 11 points in

a 24-21 loss to the Browns in late September.

"I thought the little guy (Cleveland return specialist Gerald McNeil) beat us by himself," said Rogers. "He was exceptional, outstanding. He got in space, ran like crazy, and made some of our people wish they never got in

space.

"I'm not saying the kicking game lost it for us, but it contributed to the loss, just as the offense or defense always contribute to a loss, or always contribute to a win . . . It's a team effort."

Super Bowl club forms

Nancy Mattson doesn't want the memory of the Bears' victory in Super Bowl XX to fade away. So she's formed, with the help of her sister, Beverly Parraut, the "I Was There 46-10 Alumni Club."

"We had such a good time in New Orleans and met so many nice people that we wanted to stay in touch and continue the fun," Mattson said. "People were so friendly down there, and now we're trying to get them together again."

Anyone wanting to join the club must prove he was at Super Bowl XX. Membership, which costs \$25, includes an "I Was There 46-10" T-shirt, team photo, membership card, club newsletter and information on any reunion parties the club holds.

Anyone interested in joining the club should call (312) 397-7321 or write the 46-10 Alumni Club, P.O. Box 95162,

Schaumburg, IL, 60195.

For those who live in the Chicago area, Mattson said the club meets at the Snuggery bar in Schaumburg to watch the road games. The bar also has special offers during the game.

Mattson said the hardest part of forming the club was trying to find people who were at the Super Bowl. "We're trying to get word out about the club and find people no matter where they live," she said.

Mattson said a group went to the Bears game against Dallas in London last August. "We flew out there on the team plane and had just a great time," she said. Part of the group's plans while in London included attending the Chicago-style pep rally hosted by Irv Kupcinet of the Chicago Sun-Times.

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Signature _____	

Ditka wants more than just winning

The Bears had won only six of their first six games, so it was time for a shake-up.

The winds of coach Mike Ditka's dissatisfaction began with his gusty berating of the players after their uninspired 20-7 victory at Houston. The next day, he said the starting guards would start sharing time with Kurt Becker, who had been backing them up. The next day, he traded for a new quarterback, Doug Flutie.

The Bears didn't need a new quarterback as much as the other teams that had pursued Flutie. They liked the three they had. But Flutie was available at a bargain price. "You don't pass up a bargain," Ditka said.

He doesn't pass up a chance to make the Bears better. More than that, he looks for those chances. He traded for Steve Fuller when Bob Avellini seemed to be an adequate backup. He cut Bob Thomas and Brian Baschnagel when he said they still could play. He preferred other guys who could play longer.

By
Kevin
Lamb



As if Steve Fuller didn't have enough problems avoiding the Viking rush on Sunday, he may be competing for a job with Doug Flutie in the future. (Bear Report photo by Rick Kolodziej)

Big wins is what Ditka wants
But there's more behind Ditka's high standards than motivation. He has a big personal reason for overwhelming opponents instead of merely overcoming them. It goes beyond the public's raised expectations, too.

This is the first of Ditka's five seasons that he has picked his own defensive coaches. He wants this team to succeed beyond the wildest dreams of last year. He wants that desperately.

He has hinted at it all year. He has made references to topping the 15-1 record of last year, which would take a perfect season. He has said he's putting more pressure on himself this year. He ran up the score at home against Minnesota.

Ditka wants to shut every team out. He wants to win every game by 30 points. He wants to be Oklahoma beating Kansas State. And he drives his team toward that goal because he knows it can do that to anyone, if not everyone.

"We're not going to be a team that measures itself against the Houston Oilers. Or the Eagles. Or Minnesota," Ditka said. "We're going to measure ourselves against ourselves. That's who the world champions are. And if we feel we're playing as good as we can play or should play, then I'll say, 'Fine.'

"When you're not playing good, you're not playing good. Now what would it be if I came around and said, 'Oh! Outstanding game! Didn't we kill the Houston Oilers? 20-7! Wonderful!'"

Ditka doesn't have it in him to let such drivel come from his mouth. He speaks mainly for the offense, but in case there's ever any doubt, linebacker Mike Singletary is always willing to step forward and grab his ankles for the spankings he feels the defense deserves. After all, in the Houston game, the Bears gave up their third touchdown in five weeks. "My goodness, you hate days like today," he said. "It wasn't even in the 50 percent range (of capability)."

Before the Houston game, safety Dave Duerson said, Ditka told the players "If you jump on them early, you'll have an easy day. If you don't, you'll have a dogfight. He hit it right on the head." The game stayed scoreless after one quarter and the rout was off.

"It's like a boxer stepping into the ring," Singletary said. "We're the world champs. Someone might be scared to death of us at first. But if he throws a few good punches, he starts saying, 'Hey, I'm in it.' The crowd gets behind him and there's no telling what might happen."

Bears and fans want the same thing

The irony is that the Bears, in their perfectionism, sound like the fans, in their often-spoiled expectations. Ditka and the players had taken fans and microphone jockeys to task for whining about their close victories in the first three games. Even at Houston, shortly after chastising reporters for "telling (Bear players) how good they are," he

turned 180 degrees and said, "Did we win? We won the game."

That is always an accomplishment, no matter how monotonous it becomes.

The Bears played a 1-4 team that was not in their conference. After five games against divisional rivals, coaching rivals and worthy rivals, the Oilers barely generated enough emotional electricity to light up a glove compartment. The supposedly weaker teams — Tampa Bay and Indianapolis — gave the Bears their toughest victories last season.

The Bears played Houston with a quarterback who hadn't thrown all week and seemed to be auditioning for a Rustoleum commercial. They played after spending the night in hotel rooms where the team got bargain rates but the cockroaches got in free.

And they won. They won comfortably, if not convincingly. They never trailed. True, they let the Oilers stay close. But when they needed big plays, they made them. If there is one sentence that can define championship teams, it's that they make whatever plays they need to win.

The Bears won a game when they were far less than their best. Champions do that, too. The Bears are still playing like champions. Ditka just wants more than that.

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Notebook

Continued From Page 7

So far, Ditka said, McMahon's not practicing hasn't hurt the team. "It becomes as much of a distraction as you let it," he said. "We've really stopped it from becoming a distraction. But I think we're at the point now where we'll play with people who practice. They still have to practice before they play."

Flutie will not be able to practice with the team or meet with any of the coaching staff until next year if he doesn't sign a contract for 1986. But the Bears can give him a playbook to study.

• **WILLIAM PERRY'S WEIGHT GAIN** has cost him money and a spot on the Bears' offense. Ditka said Perry will not play on offense until his weight goes down because he has lost some of his quickness.

The Bears set a limit of 320 pounds on Perry's weight this year, and apparently Perry hasn't made the cutoff. "I'd say he is around that on the left side," Ditka said. Last year Perry was limited to 305 pounds by the Bears.

Ditka said Perry would return to goal-line offenses when his weight is under control again.

Perry also has lost money because of his weight. He gets \$1,000 each time he weighs in under the maximum weight but has failed 12 times this year.

Perry said his weight hasn't been as much of a problem for him this year as his knee has. Perry injured his knee in the Green Bay game during the third week of the season.

Another problem the Bears have had this year with Perry in the offense is that the defenses are keying on him. The Bears also are limited with what they can do on offense with Perry in the lineup because of the small number of plays Perry knows.

• **THE INSTANT REPLAY RULE** underwent some changes at the NFL owners' meetings Oct. 14 in Chicago. The changes were made in an attempt to improve communication between officials in the press box and those on the field.

The umpire on the field will wear a two-way radio headset in addition to the buzzer he wears to alert him that a play is under review. The field judge also will wear a buzzer in case the umpire doesn't hear his buzzer.

Owners also approved new terminology to be used by the officials to help eliminate misunderstandings like the

one that happened in the Raiders-Chiefs game that awarded a touchdown to the Raiders in their seven-point win over the Chiefs.

In the game the replay official told the umpire by walkie-talkie, "Pass incomplete." The field officials, however, thought he said, "Pass is complete."

Under the new terminology officials will only use three terms: confirm, reversal or need more information.

The new headset was used successfully in the Washington-Dallas game two weeks ago.

Radio, TV Coverage

Bear fans can listen to talk shows on Chicago radio stations every Monday.

At 7:05 p.m. on Mondays, WGN (720 AM) broadcasts "The Mike Ditka Show." The only exceptions are on Nov. 2 and Dec. 14 when the show is broadcast at 8:05 p.m.

Also on Monday mornings at 7:20 a.m. on WGN, Ditka talks with Bob Collins.

"Bear Talk" with Rich King is broadcast on WBBM (780 AM) Mondays at 7 p.m.

Bears' Schedule

REGULAR SEASON

BEARS 41, Cleveland 31

BEARS 13, Philadelphia 10 OT

BEARS 25, Green Bay 12

BEARS 44, Cincinnati 7

BEARS 23, Minnesota 0

BEARS 20, Houston 7

Minnesota 23, BEARS 7

Sun., Oct. 26	DETROIT LIONS, Noon
Mon., Nov. 3	L.A. RAMS, 8 p.m.
Sun., Nov. 9	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Noon
Sun., Nov. 16	at Atlanta Falcons, Noon
Sun., Nov. 23	GREEN BAY PACKERS, Noon
Sun., Nov. 30	PITTSBURGH STEELERS, Noon
Sun., Dec. 7	TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS, Noon
Mon., Dec. 15	at Detroit Lions, 8 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 21	at Dallas Cowboys, 3 p.m.

Doug's Picks

BEARS by 10 over **LIONS**

Chicago will recover

RAMS by **FOUR** over **FALCONS**

Important game for both teams

BENGALS by **10** over **STEELERS**

Pittsburgh shows nothing

VIKINGS by **SIX** over **BROWNS**

Minnesota showed their tough

RAIDERS by **SEVEN** over **Oilers**

L.A. is turning things around

DOLPHINS by **NINE** over **COLTS**

No hope for Indianapolis

PATRIOTS by **SEVEN** over **BILLS**

New England playing well

SAINTS by **THREE** over **JETS**

Upset of the week

COWBOYS by **SEVEN** over **CARDINALS**

Dallas is on the move

CHARGERS by **FOUR** over **EAGLES**

San Diego will score enough to win

49ERS by **10** over **PACKERS**

Green Bay win streak won't last

BRONCOS by **SIX** over **SEAHAWKS**

Denver will remain unbeaten

CHIEFS by **SIX** over **BUCCANEERS**

Tampa Bay in a rut

REDSKINS by **SIX** over **GIANTS**

Washington too much for New York

Last week's record: 9-3

Season record: 65-31

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Playing with pain the only way for McMahon, Hampton

In case you were wondering:

•Yes, Bear quarterback Jim McMahon is injury-prone. And no, that doesn't mean he doesn't have an extremely high tolerance for pain.

•Yes, it's a shame Green Bay cornerback Tim Lewis will never play football again. And no, it is NOT a tragedy.

By definition, anybody who gets hurt a lot is injury-prone. Missing games with lacerated kidneys or separated shoulders like McMahon is not a question of braveness. But when it comes to pain threshold, an entirely different concept, McMahon and Bear defensive end Dan Hampton are in the 100th percentile among NFL players. They have played with pain for so long they have forgotten there's any other way.

By



NFL Notebook

The Tim Lewis story would have been a tragedy if doctors had allowed him to continue playing. Then, the wrong kind of hit to his spine might have paralyzed him permanently. Let's applaud the doctors who told Lewis the truth when they examined him after his collision with Bear wide receiver Willie Gault Sept. 22.

SULLIVAN SAGA:

Word out of New England is the reason the Sullivan family reopened bidding for the sale of the Patriots is because local banks are antsy about the \$20 million in outstanding loans owed by the family.

Patriot owner Billy Sullivan reportedly still is trying to make up for the losses incurred by son Chuck Sullivan resulting from Chuck's failure to make a profit promoting the Michael Jackson Victory tour.

The feeling is the Patriots asking price may have peaked. Looming next spring are expirations of the league's collective bargaining agreement with the players and its contract with the major television networks.

The networks insist they won't pay the kind of money they have in the past. And the players are making noises about a strike.

On the field, the Patriots split their first six games and aren't playing with the consistency that helped them win three road playoff games last winter before losing to the Bears 46-10 in Super Bowl XX.

MUDSLINGING:

The Chiefs were mighty steamed about the Raiders' alleged dirty play in their recent 24-17 loss to the Raiders in Kansas City.

At a press conference, Chief coach John Mackovic broke an NFL rule by showing tape of several incidents to the local media. The idea was to illustrate instances of cheapshotting not called by officials.

Meanwhile, the Raiders had broken an opponent's nose three straight weeks. In order, the victims were: Giant running back Joe Morris, Charger quarterback Dan Fouts and Chief lineman Brad Budde.

"I'm sure this is going to rankle some people," Mackovic said after showing the tapes. "I haven't been in the

NFL a long time. I didn't play in the league. I've only been a coach in it for six seasons. But through years of watching it I think I can appreciate what is right and what is wrong."

Said Raider coach Tom Flores: "If you complain about something, you do it through the league office. And you do it without fanfare... These things are always done through the privacy of the NFL and the clubs involved. I'm sure if we did it (showed tapes), we'd probably be fined."

HOW TO SAY IT:

Memo to ABC's Frank Gifford: It's, 'OAR-tuh-go,' not 'oar-TAY-go.'

Before he caught six passes for 157 yards in the first Minnesota game, Bear wide receiver Keith OAR-tuh-go (spelled ORTEGO) was called "artichoke" by several of his teammates.

When he jackrabbited away from three Viking defensive backs en route to a 58-yard touchdown pass, Bear quarterback McMahon started calling him "White Lightning."

How ironic it was the next day when the Bears waived ex-Cowboy wide receiver Doug Donley off the injured reserve list.

Donley's nickname throughout his injury-prone career was "White Lightning."

WORK LOAD:

A day in the life of Ensign Napoleon McCallum's dual existence as a Raider running back and Navy man:

4 a.m. — Wakeup call at home.

5 a.m. — Report for duty at USS Peleliu in Long Beach, Calif.

2 p.m. — Off duty, leave for 15-mile, 25-minute drive to practice in El Segundo.

2:30-5 p.m. — Practice.

5:15 p.m. — Extra practice, meetings with coaches.

6:30 p.m. — Return home for dinner with wife Karen.

8:30 p.m. — Lights out.

Not everybody is happy about McCallum's decision to split time with two careers. One irate woman wrote:

"I wouldn't even want to be your grandmother, you money-grubbing football player. You're ripping us taxpayers off. You ought to pay us our money back." Says McCallum: "People think I'm slacking off... they think I should be a fighter pilot or someone behind the missile launcher. But not everyone coming out of the (Naval) Academy gets a job like that. Why can't I work hard just like any other American?"

CLUBHOUSE LAWYER:

Another NFL player burning the candle at both ends is Bengal wide receiver Cris Collinsworth.

Collinsworth is attending law school during the season at the University of Cincinnati Law School, where his classes currently include torts and contracts. One of Collinsworth's first-year classmates is Katie Brown, daughter of Bengal assistant general manager Mike Brown.

Collinsworth caught more passes (311) in his first five NFL seasons than any other wide receiver in AFC history.

NOTES AND QUOTES: The blockbuster trade that sent Cardinal running back O.J. Anderson from St. Louis to the Giants recently may have had its roots in Giant general manager George Young's background. Young was personnel boss for the Dolphins in the '70s when Anderson was starring collegiately at Miami. The Giants compensated the Cardinals with a second and seventh-round pick in next spring's draft. Anderson missed nine of his last 21 Cardinal games with leg injuries. In his last 12 starts he only had one 100-yard rushing game. Sources in St. Louis say his time in the 40-yard dash had slowed to a pokey 4.8 seconds.



Tommy Kramer called all the right signals Sunday, completing 12 of 18 passes for 239 yards in the Vikings' 23-7 win over the Bears. (Bear Report photo by Rick Kolodziej)

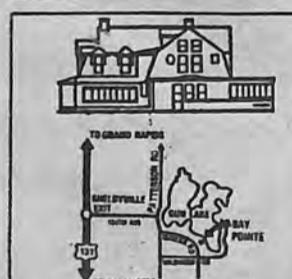
Game Notes

Through the first five games of the season the Bears' 17 takeaways have led to 56 points, while their 14 giveaways have led to just 13 points.

Chicago has crossed its opponents' 20-yard line 22 times this season and has scored on 19 of those times, including 10 touchdowns and nine field goals. Opponents have passed the Bears' 20-yard line 10 times and have scored seven times, including five touchdowns and two field goals.

In the three weeks before the Minnesota game Chicago averaged seven yards on first down. The Bears averaged 4.8 yards on first down in their first three games.

Walter Payton continues to move closer to the all-time NFL records for career touchdowns and career rushing touchdowns. Going into the Minnesota game Payton had 103 rushing touchdowns, putting him in third place behind Jim Brown (106) and John Riggins (104). Brown also leads in career touchdowns with 126. Payton is tied with Riggins for second at 116. Against the Vikings Payton has rushed for 100 yards or more 12 times in 22 games.



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Bears lose

Continued From Page 3

little bit. And I'd like to see if he can go out and do it next week."

Fuller said, "I think he's trying to build my confidence and let me know it wasn't all my fault."

A lot of the fault can be placed on the Minnesota Vikings.

"We can play better, certainly. But it was all those guys in purple that did it," Fuller said. "Give them credit. They played a great football game and beat us in every phase of the game."

"We played hard but it seemed we were beating our heads up against the wall," said Mike Singletary, who suffered a pulled groin muscle in the game but is expected to be ready for the Lions game. "I think we're going to be fine. The pieces of the puzzle aren't apart. We just have to pull them closer together. The effort was super. But we never took away anything."

Minnesota was busy doing that, and the Vikings came away one game closer to the Bears. Suddenly, it doesn't seem like it'll be an easy stroll to the playoffs.



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The Vikings kept the officials' arms moving forward as they ran up 376 yards in total offense against Chicago Sunday. (Bear Report photo by Rick Kolodziej)



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Bear Report Letters

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BEAR REPORT welcomes all Letters to the Editor. Due to space limitations, it may be necessary to shorten letters to fill the space available. **BEAR REPORT** does not necessarily agree with the views stated in the letters we receive. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Response To Nate Lehman

Dear Doug,

Win or lose, I have been an avid Bear fan for the past 45 years. They are the best, for this reason, I would like to write this in response to the letter in the Sept. 29th issue of the Bear Report, entitled, "Send Tobin Packing."

Apparently, Nate Lehman of Miami Beach did not see the Monday night game with Green Bay. Just like last year, the Bears' defense in the last half rose to the occasion in all their power and glory. Probably, the Bears were holding out in the first half of the game to confuse the Bengals' upcoming game plan and of course it worked.

Therefore, I rest my case. Tobin is great. So is Ed Hughes. Then, all one has to do is look at Ditka's won/lost record, which is damn good. Now with McMahon healthy it's all the way to the Super Bowl.

Jack Nelson
Margate, FL

P.S. Week to week I look forward to receiving the Bear Report. It keeps me updated on all the information regarding the team. Since, in South Florida, we Bear fans aren't provided with as much information as we'd like to have covered for our team, the Bear Report gives us all the info we need. And by the way, if my Floridian friend in Miami, Nate Lehman, happens to read this, tell him to contact a real Bear fan. I am listed in the telephone book.

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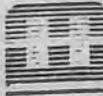
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Bears Do What Counts — Win

Dear Doug,

Some thoughts on our Bears' performance this season.

There is no such thing as winning ugly in football. The bottom line is whether you win or lose. Can anyone remember how the past 19 Super Bowl winners played in the regular season? It's hard to concentrate with the media circus you're thrown into after winning. The champions, like the Steelers, look over that and win. The Bears are 5-0 at this writing and that's what really counts. Statistics only count for individual awards and the Pro Bowl. Win-lose counts for championships.

People who keep pointing out that the Bears aren't as good as last year need to be reminded of something. A team should start out at a certain level and build up to a superior level. Any team that starts out at championship level peaks too early. You should peak near the end and save the best for last. The Bears did that last year and look what happened: 46-10!

Sir Walter must have made a deal with Father Time that keeps him stuck at age 21. It really annoys me that people leave him out of the conversation of the best back of the week performance. Walter isn't the fastest, smoothest, biggest, or prettiest back in the league. He is an all-around player who does everything at a level above most players in the league. I would like to shake his hand and say nice job.

Lastly, let's retire Dick Butkus' number. It doesn't seem right to have someone other than him wearing No. 51. He was the greatest linebacker of all time. All others are judged by his exploits on the field. He deserves that and more.

Mark Rogers
Athens, GA

A Vote For McCaskey

Dear Editor:

I was very disappointed when I heard that Jim McMahon had written some uncomplimentary things about Mike McCaskey in his book.

I hope Bear fans appreciate this man as much as I do. Since he took over the Bears they have done nothing but win. The success of any organization is largely determined by its management. As long as McCaskey is running things I know that the Bears will always have a winning team long after Payton, McMahon, Ditka, Dent, etc. are gone.

I'm sure a lot of people will disagree but I don't think the Bears would have ever made it to the Super Bowl if we didn't have a very smart man at the top.

Mr. McCaskey is very big on using bonuses to motivate personnel to do their very best. His method works. Far too many years

Bear fans weren't getting their money's worth. We were paying good money to cheer a losing team and players were getting paid good salaries to show us how many different ways they could lose. My hat is off to the man who has made us all winners. Yesterday, today and tomorrow. What time is it? It's Bear time.

Les Anderson

Ohsweken, Ontario, Canada



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